

One Website, Many Resources

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources offers a new online search tool to help you discover digitized resources from the department's programs across the state. Go to <http://education.ncdcr.gov/> to explore resources by topic, time period, grade level, and more. THJHA and the North Carolina Museum of History are part of the department's Office of Archives and History.

Magazines New and Old

Returning clubs may notice some changes in the fall issue of *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine. Last spring's issue, North Carolina A to Z, marked the first time in its five-decade history that the magazine had been printed in full color. We have been working hard to make further design refinements in this year's editions, thus the slight delay in getting the latest magazine to you. Let us know what you think!

Did you know educators can order back issues of *THJH*, with more than 45 themes to choose from? Single copies cost \$3, and a classroom set of 30 copies of one issue is \$35. Another option is a grab bag, which includes one copy of several different issues (more than 25 total) for \$35. Your registration packet included an order form (also available on the website). Spread the word!

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- The 2014 THJHA Annual Convention will be held on Friday, April 25. Check your school calendar to see if this conflicts with spring break. If your club is not able to attend together, encourage members' families to register and attend.
- There is no fee to attend the convention. Your group is responsible for covering lunch and transportation costs. A few travel grants for this year's event remain; contact Debra Nichols at the museum at debra.nichols@ncdcr.gov immediately if you would like to apply.
- Clubs do not have to submit entries to THJHA Annual Contests in order to participate in the Annual Convention.
- Advisers of clubs that have never attended are welcome to attend this year on a "trial run" before bringing their students.
- Check the THJHA Facebook page and tarheeljuniorhistorians.org for more photos and information from past conventions.
- Registration forms will be included in the next *Adviser Newsletter*, which you should receive by the end of February. We hope to see your club at this year's convention!



Scenes from the 2013 THJHA Annual Convention (top to bottom): Students created slip designs after learning about the state's pottery traditions. A gallery hunt in the *Al Norte, Al Norte: Latino Life in North Carolina* exhibit, along with related activities, taught students about Latinos and other groups that have immigrated here. History, folklore, and geography came together in a musical program focused on the Scots-Irish. Images courtesy of the North Carolina Museum of History.



Adviser Newsletter

North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, NC, 919-807-7985

December 2013

So, What Is the Annual Convention?

The Tar Heel Junior Historian Association's Annual Convention is held each spring at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. This event offers a chance for junior historians to come together for a day of interactive learning and a celebration of the year's work. Clubs attend from all corners of the state! So, what happens, exactly, at the Annual Convention?



Students learn about American Indian life around the 1600s during a workshop at the 2013 THJHA Annual Convention. See page 4 for more convention photos. Image courtesy of the North Carolina Museum of History.

Some clubs make plans to arrive early or to stay until 5 p.m. This extra time can be used to drop off projects for the Exhibit Contest, explore museum exhibits (especially *History in Every Direction: THJHA Discovery Gallery*), use the one-time discount in the Museum Shop provided on this year's membership cards, or visit nearby sites such as the State Capitol or the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

The convention officially kicks off at 10 a.m. in the museum lobby with announcements, a roll

call of clubs, a T-shirt design contest, and the singing of the state song.

Students spend most of the day attending workshops related to the fall and spring *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine themes. Workshops usually range from musical or dramatic performances to history analysis and craft demonstrations that include hands-on activities. A lunch break is scheduled for each group. Clubs can eat catered lunches purchased through

THJHA in advance or pack their own.

The THJHA Awards Ceremony begins in the lobby at 2 p.m. Winners in the association's many annual project contests are announced and presented with prizes; photographs are taken for the gallery and website.

What else do you need to know about the convention? Here are a few items to note:

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The Tar Heel Junior Historian Association *Adviser Newsletter* is published periodically during the school year by the Education Section of the North Carolina Museum of History. It is sent to all THJHA advisers.



www.tarheeljuniorhistorians.org

thjhaclubs@ncdcr.gov

www.facebook.com/TarHeelJuniorHistorianAssociation

THJHA Contests: Reminders and FAQs

Rules and regulations for this year's THJHA Annual Contests, as well as essay prompts, are online at <http://www.ncdcr.gov/Portals/7/Collateral/THJHA/2013-14ContestInfoFINAL.pdf>. (You also can find this packet by going to www.tarheeljuniorhistorians.org and clicking on For Advisers.)

Be sure to read all of the rules carefully. If you have not received the Christopher Crittenden Quiz questions and essay prompts, please e-mail thjhaclubs@ncdcr.gov. Contact Jessica Pratt, THJHA program coordinator, with any questions related to contests or for suggestions on incorporating projects into regular club and classroom activities.

We would love for every club to enter at least one contest! Winners are displayed for a year in the THJHA Gallery at the museum, which is an exciting chance for students to share what they have learned.

What's Our Deadline, Again?

All contest entries must be postmarked by **Friday, February 28**. This deadline also applies to the entry form, research paper, and bibliography for all Exhibit Contest entries, although those actual projects are not due until the day of the Annual Convention, Friday, April 25.

The only exception to the February deadline is the History in Action Award. Documentation of your club's HIA project must be postmarked by **Friday, April 4**. (See page 3.)

How Many Entries Can We Enter?

Many contests allow two entries per club. Others, such as the essay and Artifact Search contests, allow one entry per student. Check the rules.

Bragging is Encouraged!

Do not forget that THJHA offers Chapter of the Year, Rookie Chapter of the Year (for clubs in their first or second year), and Adviser of the Year awards.

How excited would your students be to have their history club efforts recognized at the Annual Convention's Awards Ceremony *and* featured in the THJHA Gallery? Let the association and the state of North Carolina know what your group is doing. Submit a nomination. See the contest packet for details.

About that Annotated Bibliography . . .

Entries submitted to many of the contests require an annotated bibliography and **cannot** win a prize without one. A *bibliography* is a list of sources (books, websites, articles, and so forth)

used to research a topic and complete the project. An *annotation* is a summary, explanation, or evaluation of a source. Each source listed in the bibliography should have a brief annotation written by the student.

Annotated bibliographies encourage students to think more critically about

sources, as well as to show the contest judges the quality and depth of their research. Junior historians who work on contest projects gain research and documentation skills that will benefit them in future studies. Please check the printed or online version of the *Adviser Handbook* for helpful hints on annotated bibliographies and on research using primary sources, which contests also require. Let us know if you need advice.

Check Those Page Sizes

Projects entered in the Literary Contest should have pages that measure 8½-by-11-inches or 12-by-12-inches. Projects should include no more than 20 pages. These requirements relate to the winning entries being displayed on a computer screen in the THJHA Gallery. The display allows visitors to view projects in color and to flip electronically through the pages of each one.



Artifact Search Contest winners are recognized at the 2013 THJHA Annual Convention. Image courtesy of the North Carolina Museum of History.

Helping through History in Action

Have you considered introducing your club to THJHA Annual Contests but aren't sure where to begin?

Perhaps you want to lead your students in a civic activity as part of a character education unit. Maybe your community has a historic cemetery or house that needs some help, or a person whose story should be told. If so, a History in Action project is a great place to start! This program offers a chance to get your students involved with the history of their community and our state through action and service.

This is the second year for History in Action. Last year, junior historians contributed many hours of service in projects that focused on water and historic waterways, as part of a grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation. This year, the program is wide open. Let your students select a topic and activity that is important to them!

Clubs must write a 1- to 2-page research report on the subject of their project. Students need to consult at least one primary and two secondary sources in their research and include an annotated bibliography. After the club completes its related activity or day of service, it should compose a 1-page report documenting what the project was, the number of students involved, the number of hours contributed, tasks completed,



Last year, the Neuse Navigators, Spence Academy, Kinston, learned about the history of transportation on the Neuse River, then held a trash pickup project along the river in Lenoir County. Image courtesy of adviser Laura Lee Spence.

and reasons that the group felt this activity was important. A photograph or short video clip of the group working on the action day or project activity is required, as well. These items, along with a contest entry form, must be mailed to THJHA by Friday, April 4. Please see the contest packet for further rules and regulations.

All clubs that submit complete entries for History in Action will be recognized at

the Awards Ceremony at the THJHA Annual Convention, on the THJHA webpage, in statewide contest press releases, and in the THJHA Gallery at the North Carolina Museum of History. Each club that meets requirements also will be entered in a prize drawing to take place at the Awards Ceremony. At least one \$100 cash prize will be given. (More prizes may be offered depending on the level of participation.)



History Hounds of Central Carolina—Club B, North Carolina Homeschool Adventures, Sanford, studied historical land and economic uses of the Carvers Creek State Park area of Spring Lake, then helped prepare the new park to open to the public. Image courtesy of adviser Julie Elmore.

Big Fans of "The Old North State"?

Would your club like to lead the singing of the state song at the 2014 THJHA Annual Convention? If so, please contact the program coordinator at thjhaclubs@ncdcr.gov.

